

STATEMENT COMMENDING THE  
NAMING OF THE RODERICK P.  
PAIGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize our former Secretary of Education, Dr. Rod Paige, on the occasion of the naming of an elementary school in Houston, Texas in his honor. This is certainly a well-deserved honor for Dr. Paige given his years of dedication to educational excellence, and I hope that the dedication will impact a whole new generation of students who may be inspired by all that Dr. Paige has accomplished throughout his career.

On January 21, 2001, the United States Senate confirmed Dr. Roderick Paige as the 7th U.S. Secretary of Education. For Dr. Paige, the son of a principal and a librarian in public schools, that day was the crowning achievement of a long career in education.

Born in 1933 in segregated Monticello, Mississippi, Dr. Paige's accomplishments speak of his commitment to education. He earned a bachelor's degree from Jackson State University in his home state, and went on to earn both a master's and a doctoral degree from Indiana University. Dr. Paige began working with students early in his career as a teacher and a coach. He then went on to serve as Dean of College of Education at Texas Southern University (TSU) for a decade. In this position Dr. Paige worked to ensure that future educators would receive the training and expertise necessary to succeed in the classroom.

In 1989, Dr. Paige was sworn in as a trustee and an officer of the Board of Education of the Houston Independent School District (HISD), in which capacities he served until 1994 when he became superintendent of HISD, the nation's seventh largest school district.

Dr. Paige served as the first African-American Secretary of Education from 2001–2005. During his tenure, Dr. Paige continued his mission to set new standards of educational achievement for all students. Today, Dr. Paige is the Chairman of Chartwell Education Group, an organization he co-founded to improve the quality of education for our nation's school children.

The Roderick Paige Elementary School will be formally dedicated on Friday, May 23, 2008. Dr. Paige's impact on students in Houston and throughout this country will be felt for years to come. I congratulate Dr. Paige on this occasion. This is a fitting honor, and I can think of no greater individual to bestow it upon.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS  
MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. NIKI TSONGAS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1106 which ex-

presses support for designating April 2008 as National Autism Awareness Month.

Autism is a very real issue for many of my constituents whose families have been affected by this condition. I hear about the challenges that these families face at each Congress on Your Corner I host and receive many constituent letters on this issue.

My district is fortunate to house the Melmark New England headquarters. This organization is dedicated to serving children and adolescents with the autism spectrum disorders.

Founded in 1998, Melmark, New England recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary. At a recent visit in celebration of this occasion, I had the opportunity to see first hand the importance of early intervention and proper treatment for those individuals living with autism.

I commend Melmark New England and organizations like it across the country that provide quality treatment to those living with Autism.

My hope is that passage of this resolution will help to expand these programs by highlighting the need for early intervention services and appropriately trained teachers to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students.

REMEMBERING LOBSANG  
LHALUNGPA

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, Lobsang Lhalungpa was born on the other side of the world from New Mexico, but we considered him one of our own.

When he died in April, the state lost, as one resident put it, a "teacher with a capital T." For decades, Lhalungpa was a great promoter of communication. As a translator and adviser for the Dalai Lama, he brought the ideas and the struggles of the Tibetan people to American audiences. As an exile and activist, he linked Tibetan communities from India and the United States to their troubled homeland and their brothers and sisters around the world. As a spiritual teacher in New Mexico, he introduced his neighbors to a history and a way of life that continues to provide comfort to those who knew him.

Lhalungpa's family had developed a habit of being one step ahead of disaster. In 1910, his father recommended to the Dalai Lama that he leave Lhasa immediately after the Manchu General Chao Erh Feng decided to attack. The move may have saved the Lama's life, and it sealed his relationship with Lhalungpa's family. In 1947, Lhalungpa left Tibet for India, two years before China began its invasion. His escape allowed him to help establish the Tibetan government in exile and rally Tibetans in India around the cause of their homeland.

Lhalungpa's life was cut short by a traffic accident, but he had already lived 84 years filled with action, reflection and joy. Friends claim that Lhalungpa would not want us to feel sorrow at his passing. As a teacher, he told his students that life is fleeting and death comes when we least expect it. Our responsibility is not to mourn death but to celebrate life.

I rise today to celebrate the life of Lobsang Lhalungpa. Buddhism teaches that those who

don't find teachers in this life will live in vain. Those who had the privilege to be taught by Lhalungpa have lived lives more linked to their communities and more touched by the divine. He lives on in their hearts and in the memory of a grateful community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, I missed 3 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: H.R. 6081, The Heroes Earnings Assistance & Relief Tax Act of 2008, "yes"; H.R. 6074, Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act of 2008, "yes"; and H. Res. 1144, Expressing support for designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" on May 13, 2008, in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative stamp, "yes."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING WAR-  
RANT OFFICER ROBERT D. GA-  
BRIEL FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE  
UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Warrant Officer Robert D. Gabriel served in the United States Army; and

Whereas, he fought with an engaged infantry unit in the Republic of Vietnam; and

Whereas, Warrant Officer Robert D. Gabriel displayed personal bravery and devotion to duty as a soldier in the United States Army; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Warrant Officer Robert D. Gabriel for his contributions to his community and country.

A TRIBUTE TO EVANGELIST  
BETTY J. WRIGHT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evangelist Betty J. Wright, founder of "Apple of His Eye" Ministries and outreach ministry for those who understand a personal walk with God.

A native of Augusta, Georgia, Evangelist Wright was raised in Brooklyn, New York. She is a graduate of the High School of Fashion and is an alumna of the Fashion Institute of Technology of (F.I.T.). Thereafter, Evangelist Wright matriculated at O.M. Kelly Bible Religious Institute, where she earned her Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Religious Education.

Evangelist Wright is the wife of Elder Timothy Wright, mother of five sons—Danny,